

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT Let Aircraft Plant No. 1, Kunovice

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The new buildings of Let Plant No. 1, Kunovice, are located west of the town of Kunovice. The northern boundary of the factory is the Olseava River, which flows into the Morava River. About 200 meters west of the plant is a wood called the Petrikovec Wood. The plant is two kilometers west of the Kunovice-Veseli railroad line.
2. Construction of the plant began in 1951, and in 1952 part of the plant was in operation. Three shifts had been introduced on the construction site and work was progressing at great speed when last observed.
3. At the same time the plant was being built, the Olseava River was also being regulated and a new road six meters wide was being built along its bank. Near the railroad tracks, this road joins an old country road. Behind the railroad overpass, there are several old farmhouses on the new road. A railroad spur crosses the new road and then runs parallel to it, finally entering the plant on the west side. The spur was put into operation in 1952.
4. The plant occupies an area 500 meters square and is surrounded by a barbed-wire fence three meters high. In the middle of the north side there is a gate with a guardroom situated outside the fence. It is a wooden hut 30 by 10 meters in size.
5. At the entrance to the plant, there are two temporary wooden huts which house the offices of the personnel and cadre departments.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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6. In the center of the plant grounds there are four new production halls of ferro-concrete construction, each 80 by 40 by 16 meters in size. They stand in pairs across a yard about 60 meters wide. The distance between the halls is 40 meters. The roofs of these halls are made of concrete.
7. Another production hall is under construction in the southeast corner of the grounds; it is 60 by 30 meters in size.
8. The administrative offices are in a four-story building 60 by 20 meters in size which is in the northeast corner of the grounds. The offices of the plant management and the drafting and technical as well as the administrative offices will be located there.
9. Close to the railroad spur running along the side of the plant, there is a one-story brick building used for storage, and in front of it there is a loading ramp.
10. Construction of Let Plant No.1 was not completed when last observed; the plant is to be expanded further to the south. The construction work is being done by the Brno branch of Prumstav and the Prostějov branch of Ingstav. A wood is being cleared to the west of the plant.
11. Setting up of machinery began in 1952 and was still going on when the plant was last observed. Lathes were supplied by the CKD Works in Blansko. All four production halls were in operation when last observed, but they were not yet in full swing. Numerous machines were transferred to the Kunovice plant from other factories where new production lines were being introduced; only a few machines were new.
12. The plant is engaged in the production of complete jet engines, which operate on a special fuel mixture. The engines are tested every morning and the noise of them can be heard at Dolní Nemci, 12 kilometers away. The testing is regularly performed at about 10 a.m. The completed engines are sent by rail to the Rudy Letov Plant of Let, Letňany; two covered engines are sent in one railroad car.
13. New employees are always being recruited and there is a shortage of qualified workers. The first employees, who put the plant into operation, came from the Rudy Letov Plant of Let, Letňany; others were transferred to Kunovice from the Precision Machinery Works (Zavody přesného strojírenství), Brno-Lisen. The total number of employees is between 1,000 and 1,500; the plant works in two shifts.
14. Let Plant No. 1, Kunovice, is under military administration and belongs to the Rudy Letov Plant of Let, Letňany. In spite of the manpower shortage, people who receive unfavorable opinions from the cadre section are not likely to get jobs at this plant. New workers must take an oath pledging to observe the rules of military security.
15. The plant was built in an agricultural district, where there is a considerable lack of industrial workers; furthermore, materials for the plant have to be brought from distant places.
16. Power is supplied by the power plant at Uherské Hradiště; the new power lines run along the Olšava River.
17. Houses for employees are to be built west of Let Plant No. 1 in a cleared area.

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